Patent Application of Ronald B. Little for "Heated Pet Enclosure" Page 8

[0051] The tank (24) and the submersible heater are shown in lateral, top and front view, respectively, in Figures 20, 21 and 22. Cap (30) provides the seal between the heater (28) and the tank (24). Notice that in Figure 22 a handle can be incorporated to aid in the filling and placement of the tank. Figs. 23 through 25 show an alternative design of the submersible heater wherein the power plug is molded together with the tank seal (20).

[0052] While the above-detailed description described the preferred embodiment of the present invention, it should be understood that the present invention is susceptible to modification, variation, and alliteration without deviation from the scope and fair meaning of the subjoined claims.

I claim:

- 1. A heated pet enclosure consisting of:
 - a. a floor section containing a bottom, a rear wall, two side walls, and a front wall with an opening in said front wall.
 - a roof section is comprised of a back wall, two side walls, which are angled in an upward direction and joined to form the roof, and a front wall which contains an opening, said opening communicates with said opening of said floor section for passage of said pet;
 - c. a tank molded from a rigid polymer which can be filled with a fluid solution with a high caloric capacity;
 - d. a submersible thermostatically controlled electric water heater in which the temperature can be user adjustable;
 - e. insulation material surrounding said container to prevent loss of heat;
 - f. designed packing spaces; and
 - g. a pet mat.
- 2. The heated pet enclosure in Claim 1, wherein said roof section is designed to allow for close fit with said rear wall, said side walls and said front wall of said floor section when said roof section is inverted and placed in said floor section, while creating said designed packing space between said inverted roof section and said floor section.

Patent Application of Ronald B. Little for "Heated Pet Enclosure" Page 9

- 3. The heated pet enclosure in Claim 2, wherein said floor section is designed to allow for close fit with said rear wall, said sidewalls, and said front wall of said roof section, while creating said designed packing space between the outside bottom of said floor section and the interior top of the said roof section when said upright floor section is inserted and placed in said inverted roof section.
- 4. The heated pet enclosure in Claim 3, wherein the form and size of said tank allows for said tank to fit in said designed packing spaces.
- 5. The heated pet enclosure in Claim 4, wherein the form and size of said insulating material allows fit of said insulating material in said designed packing spaces between said base and said inverted roof section.
- 6. The heated pet enclosure in Claim 1, wherein the top surface of said tank when filled and positioned in said floor section will provide a level surface in said heated pet enclosure.
- 7. The heated pet enclosure in Claim 1, wherein said floor section will provide drainage holes for any accumulated moisture within said pet enclosure.
- 8. The heated pet enclosure in Claim 4, wherein said tank is constructed of a rigid plastic and when filled with solution will support the weight of said pet.
- 9. The heated pet enclosure in Claim 8, wherein said tank provides an opening sufficient in size to allow passage of said submersible heater and a means of sealing around said opening allowing for application of external power to said immersion heater.
- 10. The heated pet enclosure in Claim 9, wherein said tank is insulated by said insulation material on selected areas and said pet mat covers the top surface of said tank when placed in said heated pet enclosure.
- 11. The heated pet enclosure in Claim 1, wherein any surface area which may be in contact with said pet will be constructed of a waterproof rigid polymer material having sufficient weight-bearing characteristics to support said pet.
- 12. The heated pet enclosure in Claim 9, wherein external power source supplied to said immersible heater is routed through an opening in said pet enclosure and connected to said tank.
 - 13. A heated pet enclosure consisting of:

Patent Application of Ronald B. Little for "Heated Pet Enclosure" Page 10

- a. a floor section containing a bottom, two side walls and a front wall, with an opening in said front wall;
 - a roof section which is comprised of a back wall, two side walls which are angled in upward direction and joined to form the roof, and a front wall which contains an opening and communicates with said opening of said floor section for passage of said pet;
 - c. a tank molded from a rigid polymer, and when filled with a high caloric capacity solution, said tank can support the weight of said pet and provide a level resting surface for said pet;
 - d. a submersible thermostatically controlled electric water heater which is sealed and housed in said tank and temperature of said submersible heater is user adjustable;
 - e. insulation material which surrounds the surface areas of said tank in which heat transfer is not desired;
 - f. a pet mat to cover the resting surface of said heated tank; and
 - g. drainage holes to drain any accumulated moisture from said pet enclosure.
- 14. The heated pet enclosure in Claim 13, wherein said floor section and said roof section are designed to fit closely together when said roof section is inverted and inserted into said floor section leaving a designed packing space to house the heating system for the heated pet enclosure, said floor section is also designed to fit closely in inverted said roof section leaving a designed packing space between said inverted roof section and said heating system.
- 15. The heated pet enclosure in claim 14, wherein repeative placements of inverted said roof sections into upright said floor section and upright said floor sections are inserted into inverted said roof sections with said heating system components housed in said designed packing spaces, allow for a stable column of said heated pet enclosures to be stored, shipped and displayed, thereby minimizing the space requirements.
- 16. the heated pet enclosure in claim 13, wherein the required power is routed through an opening in said heated pet enclosure and is interfaced to said submersible heater located in said

Patent Application of Ronald B. Little for "Heated Pet Enclosure" Page 11

tank.

- 17. The heated pet enclosure in claim 13, wherein the areas exposed to said pet are constructed of durable waterproof materials and said heated pet enclosure provides a method for aligning and securing said roof section to said floor sections.
- 18. The heated pet enclosure in Claim 13, wherein said submersible water heater and said insulation materials are designed in size and shape to fit in designed packing spaces.
- 19. The heated pet enclosure in Claim 1, wherein several sets of inverted said roof sections placed in upright said floor sections with said insulation material and said tank stored in said designed packing spaces, are combined to form a stable column of said heated pet enclosures to minimize space requirements for storage, shipping and display at retail stores.